

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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Spectrum
DTV

March 20, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WMC Channel Change Petition, FCC File No. BPRM-20110526AJPGN GN
Docket No. 12-268

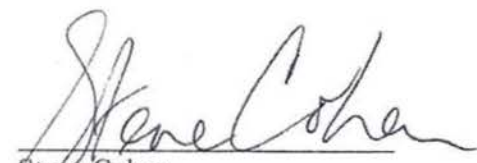
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

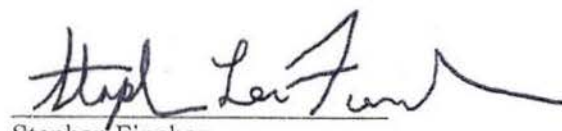
We write to urge the Commission to act on the petition of WMC-TV, Memphis, Tennessee, to move from low VHF Channel 5 to UHF Channel 17. When we wrote to you in September 2013, we expressed concern that thousands of viewers in the station's service area have been deprived of access to WMC-TV's free, over-the-air television signal due to the difficulties of digital broadcasting on low VHF channels (difficulties that the Commission has repeatedly acknowledged). We noted that "[t]he inability to receive WMC-TV's low VHF signal hits hardest senior citizens, low-income households, and African American households which still depend substantially on over-the-air television."

The petition filed by WMC-TV has been pending since May 2011. Yet rather than move expeditiously to process the petition, the Commission has allowed these harms to our constituents to continue — and it has even authorized the Media Bureau to dismiss certain petitions. We remind you that Congress added Section 6403(g)(1)(B) to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to ensure that the Commission could act on such petitions consistent with — not contrary to — that legislation. And we note that the Commission had granted a number of petitions to allow VHF stations to move to UHF channels, before it issued the freeze on accepting additional such petitions.

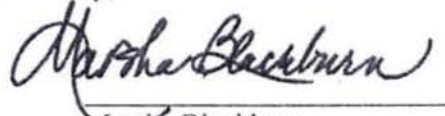
In the interest of restoring robust, reliable, and free television service to viewers, we urge the Commission to promptly give full and fair consideration to WMC-TV's petition.


Thank you for your attention to this matter.


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman Wheeler*
Commissioner Clyburn*
Commissioner Rosenworcel*
Commissioner Pai*
Commissioner O'Rielly*
Bill Lake*

WMC License Subsidiary, LLC
201 Monroe Street
20th Floor
Montgomery, AL 36104

* by e-mail



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 9, 2015

The Honorable Stephen Fincher
U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

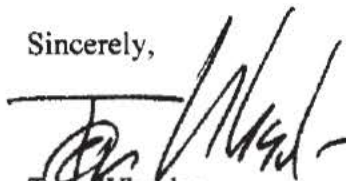
Dear Congressman Fincher:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to act on a pending petition from WMC-TV to change its VHF TV channel to a UHF TV channel. The Media Bureau is reviewing WMC-TV's petition, among others, consistent with the Commission's directives, and will give full and fair consideration to WMC-TV's request.

Section 6403(g)(1)(B) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act provided the Commission with the discretion to determine how to address such petitions. In the May 2014 Incentive Auction Report and Order (IA Order), the Commission established a process to address pending channel reassignment petitions. Specifically, the Commission – in the IA Order – directed the Media Bureau to dismiss any petitions that would not be in the public interest and hold all others in abeyance until the current application filing freeze is lifted. These actions are necessary for the Commission to maintain flexibility in the incentive auction repacking process and avoid potential increases in the cost of repurposing UHF spectrum for advanced wireless use.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,


Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 9, 2015

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to act on a pending petition from WMC-TV to change its VHF TV channel to a UHF TV channel. The Media Bureau is reviewing WMC-TV's petition, among others, consistent with the Commission's directives, and will give full and fair consideration to WMC-TV's request.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line above it.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 9, 2015

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to act on a pending petition from WMC-TV to change its VHF TV channel to a UHF TV channel. The Media Bureau is reviewing WMC-TV's petition, among others, consistent with the Commission's directives, and will give full and fair consideration to WMC-TV's request.

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 9, 2015

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to act on a pending petition from WMC-TV to change its VHF TV channel to a UHF TV channel. The Media Bureau is reviewing WMC-TV's petition, among others, consistent with the Commission's directives, and will give full and fair consideration to WMC-TV's request.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler